



REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of May 9, 2001.

The objections of numbered paragraphs 2 and 3 and the rejection of numbered paragraph 5 have been obviated by the present amendment. It is respectfully submitted that this is fully responsive to the Office Action. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at 212-297-5824 if further discussion and/or amendments are required in this matter.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw her rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Please amend Claims 25, 26 and 27 as follows:

25. (twice amended) A method of manufacturing a reclosable bag having top and bottom ends and opposing front and rear walls and a flexible interlocking fastener assembly, said method comprising the steps of: sealing said fastener assembly to one or more lips; sealing one of said lips to one of said walls; said fastener assembly comprising an engaging portion and a flexible interlocking fastener assembly releasably connected to a complementary engaging portion, said complementary engaging portion sealed to said front wall only as a result of a sealing operation upstream from a forming and filling nozzle cylinder of a form, fill and seal machine, sealing an end of said front wall to said flexible interlocking fastener lip, and to said back wall, and forming a perforation on said front wall intermediate said complementary engaging portion and said end sealed to said flexible interlocking fastener lip, whereby when said [engaging portion] flexible interlocking fastener assembly is engaged to said complementary engaging portion, said fastener assembly blocks any opening of said perforation whereby a fail-safe

reclosable bag barrier is formed reducing the risk of contamination or release of contents within or from an interior storage volume of said bag by inadvertent separation of one portion of said front wall from another portion of said front wall.

26. (amended) The method of Claim 25 further comprising the [steps of securing said complimentary engaging portion to a front wall portion of said web material; and,] step of releasably interconnecting said complementary engaging portion to said engaging portion upstream from a forming and filling nozzle cylinder of a form, fill and seal machine.

27. (three times amended) The method of Claim 25 further comprising the step of securing predetermined sections of said flexible interlocking fastener assembly having said [flexible interlocking fastener lip] lips to a continuous elongate sheet of [said] web material which forms said front and rear walls at bag length intervals along said continuous elongate sheet.